

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7140
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 789

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, WA, SF
SUBJECT: MEETING SAG CONCERN ABOUT FINAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) USUN 1487, (B) USUN 1523, (C) SECTO 4095,

1. A KEY QUESTION IN CONSIDERING SAG CONCERN ABOUT THE
TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE IS BOTHA'S OBJECTIVE AND MINIMUM
REQUIREMENT. ELEMENTS IN THE SAG AND IN NAMIBIA ARGUE THAT
THE PROVISION IN OUR PROPOSAL FOR FINAL WITHDRAWAL A WEEK
AFTER CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTIONS WILL RESULT IN A
DANGEROUS SECURITY VACUUM. BOTHA MAY RECOGNIZE THAT THERE
IS LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO THIS ARGUMENT GIVEN THE CONTINUING
UN FORCE IN THE TERRITORY DURING THIS PERIOD, THE
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00789 201727Z

POSSIBILITY OF THE AG AND THE UNSR DECIDING TO INCREASE
POLICE UNITS AND THE MORAL FORCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SANCTION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. NEVERTHELESS, BOTHA
APPARENTLY NEEDS MORE ASSURANCE ON THE QUESTION OF
SECURITY IN THE PERIOD FROM CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION
TO INDEPENDENCE IF HE IS TO BE ABLE TO SELL THE PROPOSAL
TO HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND THE DTA.

2. AS A MAXIMUM, BOTHA MIGHT HOPE FOR A STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THAT PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH (USUN 1534), WHICH WOULD BIND THE PARTIES TO ACCEPT A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AND WHICH "WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT FORWARD IN A MANNER THAT WOULD ALLOW IT TO BE READ AS HAVING A STATUS SOMEWHAT ON A PAR TO THE PROPOSAL ITSELF." (USUN 1487). WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE BOTHA WOULD BE ABLE TO SETTLE FOR LESS.

3. BOTHA'S OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE SERVED BY ISSUANCE OF (A) A STATEMENT BY THE WESTERN POWERS ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY USUN (USUN 1487, PARA 3) COMBINED WITH (B) A PUBLIC ASSURANCE BY THE FIVE TO THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA OF THEIR CONCERN WITH THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY DURING THE ENTIRE TRANSITION PERIOD.

4. AS USUN HAS NOTED, HOWEVER, EVEN ITS SUGGESTED LANGUAGE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION COULD CREATE POSSIBLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH SWAPO AND THE SAG. CONSEQUENTLY, THE CONTACT GROUP MAY WISH TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH WOULD AVOID SAYING ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ISSUE. THIS ALTERNATIVE WOULD INCLUDE: (1) A STATEMENT BY THE WESTERN POWERS REGARDING THEIR INTEREST IN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A DECLARATION THAT THE WESTERN POWERS WOULD VIEW WITH GRAVE CONCERN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00789 201727Z

EFFORTS BY ANY PARTY TO VIOLATE PEACE IN THE TERRITORY DURING THE ENTIRE TRANSITION PERIOD; AND (2) EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FROM THE FRONT LINE STATES, ANGOLA AND NIGERIA A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND AN UNDERTAKING TO RECOGNIZE THE DULY-ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS REPRESENTING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA.

5. SUCH DECLARATIONS BY THE WESTERN POWERS AND THE AFRICAN STATES COULD IN FACT BE MORE REASSURING THATN A VAGUE NON-BINDING FORMULATION ON THE AUTHORITY OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS.
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